

THE ROUNDTABLE **SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL** ORGANISATION

# CERTIFICATION

## WHAT IT IS AND WHY



### WHY RSPO-CERTIFIED?

To ensure the credibility of palm oil sustainability claims, all RSPO members that take **legal ownership and produce or handle** RSPO-certified sustainable oil palm products need to be RSPO certified.



### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

**RSPO Certification** is an assurance to the **customer** that the standard of palm oil production is **sustainable**.



### HOW CERTIFICATION WORKS



There is in an ever-urgent need and growing global concern that commodities are produced without causing harm to the environment or society.

Palm oil producers are certified through **strict verification** of the production process to the **stringent** RSPO Principles & Criteria for Sustainable Palm Oil Production by accredited Certifying Bodies, and **can be withdrawn at any time** in case of **infringement of the rules and standards**.



# Why certification is important

## Transparency

Transparency and credibility are assured through RSPO Supply Chain Certification and RSPO Principles and Criteria Certification.



## Credibility

To ensure the credibility of the sustainability claim at the end of the supply chain, all organisations that take legal ownership and physically handle RSPO certified sustainable oil palm products need to be supply chain certified.



## Complexity

The palm oil supply chain, from the tropics to its use as an ingredient in retail products all over the world, is complex.

## 3 elements of RSPO certification scheme



**STANDARD** – Must be met & against which certification assessments are made. The RSPO Standard is the RSPO Principles and Criteria.



**ACCREDITATION** – To ensure the organisations which undertake certification assessment are competent to undertake credible, consistent audits.



**PROCESS REQUIREMENTS** – This is the process for establishing whether or not a set of requirements (i.e. the Standard) has been met and is carried out by an accredited Certification Body.

# Sustainability standards & certification



Voluntary



More than 500  
standards



Usually assessed  
by third party



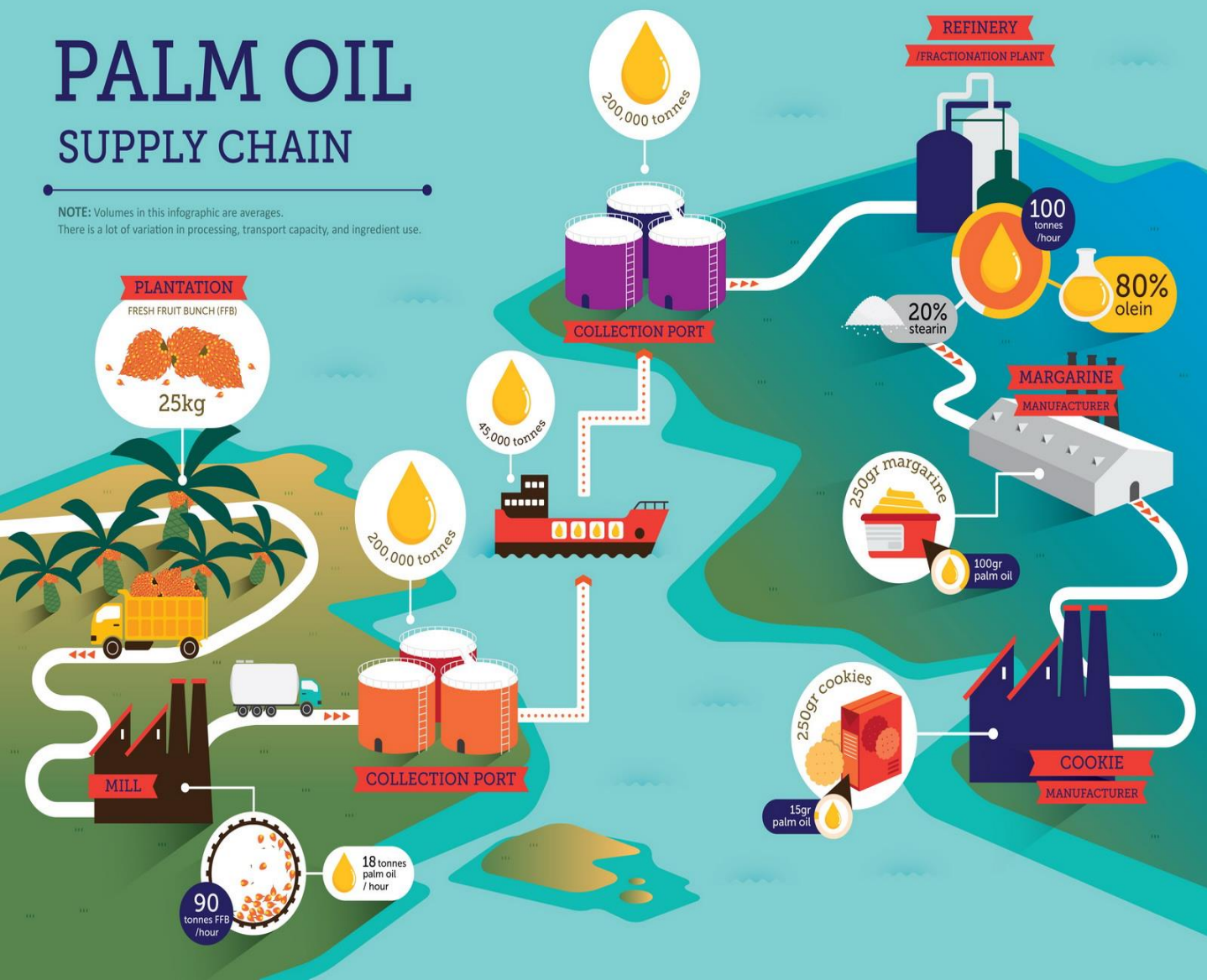
Relates to  
environment,  
social, ethical,  
food safety



Developed by  
stakeholders &  
experts

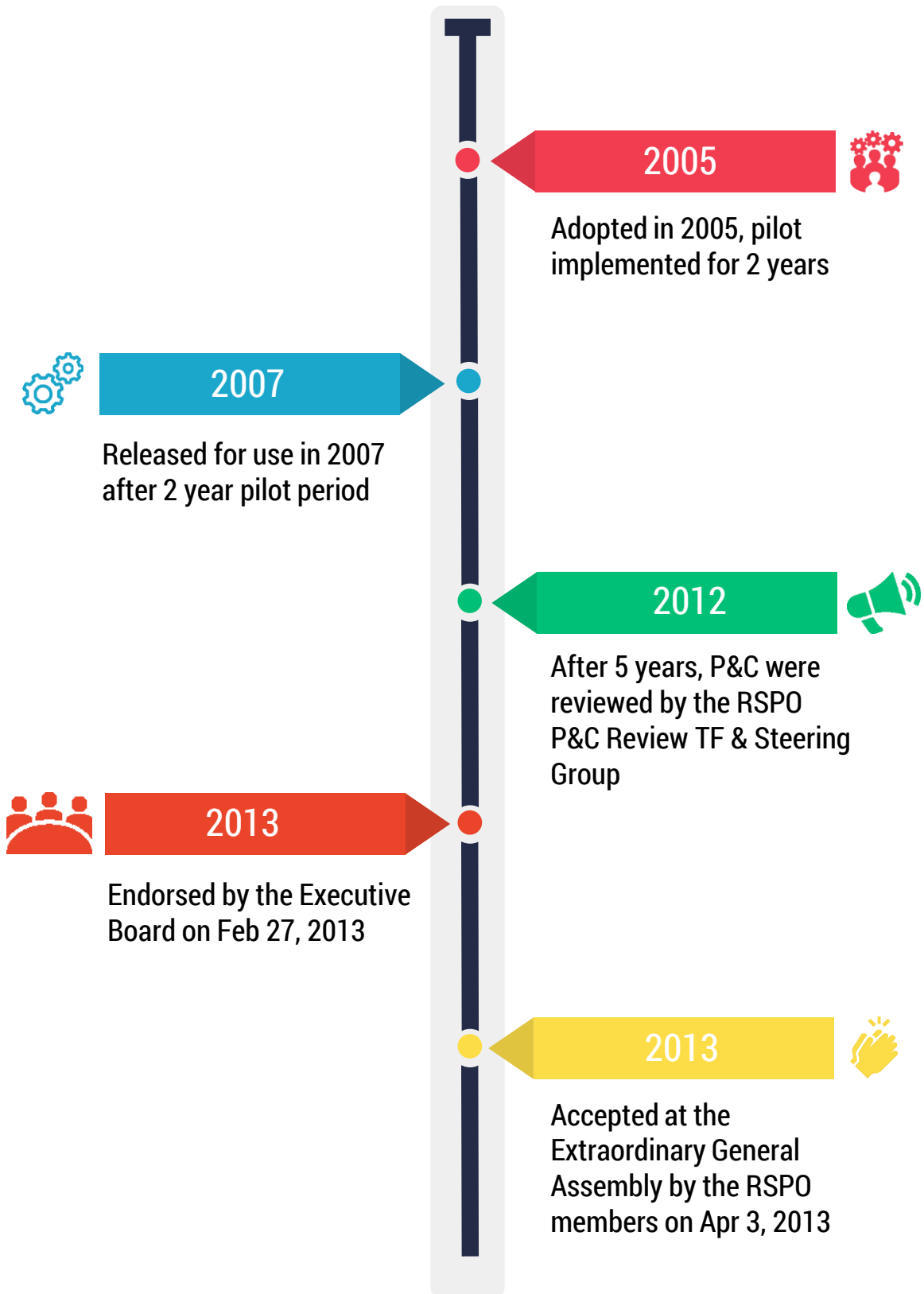
## PALM OIL SUPPLY CHAIN

NOTE: Volumes in this infographic are averages.  
There is a lot of variation in processing, transport capacity, and ingredient use.



# HISTORY OF THE RSPO P&C

## DELIVERY TIMELINE



# STRUCTURE OF THE RSPO P&C



## PROSPERITY

- Respect **community** and human rights and **deliver benefits**
- Support **smallholder** inclusion
- Respect workers' **rights and conditions**



## PLANET

- Behave **ethically** and **transparently**
- Operate legally and respect **rights**
- **Optimise** productivity, efficiency, positive impacts and resilience



## PEOPLE

- Protect, conserve and enhance **ecosystems** and **environment**

## ISSUES WITH CERTIFICATION

#1



Not transparent

#6



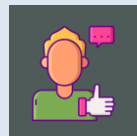
Flexibility

#2



Not inclusive

#7



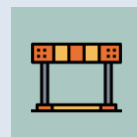
Credibility of standards

#3



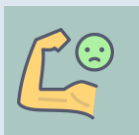
Discriminatory

#8



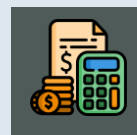
Hurdles to implementation

#4



Watered down standards

#9



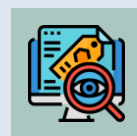
Compliance cost

#5



Stakeholder engagement

#10



Questionable independent third party audits

# 10 REQUIREMENTS

## FOR A CERTIFICATION PROCESS

### 1. Compliance

Min. requirement - to comply with relevant national & international laws and conventions



### 2. Conserve

Minimise/eliminate environmental & social negative impacts.



### 2. Human Rights

International Human Rights, land use, tenure & property rights



### 4. Science

Science based & include latest scientific findings related to issues to be addressed



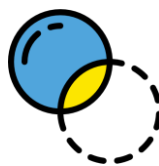
### 5. ISEAL

Comply with ISEAL's code of good practice for setting social & environmental standards



### 6. Transparent

Provide transparency in decision making & public reporting



### 7. Clear guidelines

Scheme has clear guidelines on non-conformity that includes effective measures



### 8. 3<sup>rd</sup> party

Require independent third party independent certification



### 9. Interest

Equitable stakeholder participation, minority groups to be engaged



### 10. Complaints and appeals

An accessible complaints and appeals mechanism



# Types of certification in Malaysia



**RSPO**

Roundtable  
Sustainable  
Palm Oil



**FSC**

Forest  
Stewardship  
Council



**MSPO**

Malaysian  
Sustainable  
Palm Oil



**MTCC**

Malaysian  
Timber  
Certification  
Council



**SIRIM**

Standard and  
Industrial  
Research Institute  
of Malaysia

## Benefits of certification

1

### Growers

RSPO-certified growers account for 19% of global palm oil production (2014).

2

### Global

RSPO members make up a large part of the world's palm oil that is produced and sold in the global market.

3

### NGO's involvement

Key social and environmental NGOs lend their sighting to the processes for greater transparency and credibility.

4

### Universal

As all the members are bound to accept RSPO certification on each other, the value of the status is quite universal.

## How to get certified

01



### Role

Choose  
your role in  
the supply  
chain

02



### Supply chain

Choose  
your supply  
chain  
system

03



### Member

Become an  
RSPO  
member

04



### Certified

Get  
certified

05



### Purchase

Purchase  
oil from  
certified  
suppliers

06



### Claim

Claim the  
use of  
certified  
palm oil